

July 23, 2017

In response to comments made by Mr. Robert Shipley on July 22, I find myself in unfamiliar territory, as Mr. Shipley called into question my credibility and integrity. In defending his actions of how the Independence and Conservative petitions were circulated by himself, he attempts to defame my character and tarnish my reputation. I personally saw Mr. Shipley obtaining a petition signature, alone. I spoke with two individuals who signed these petitions, and two individuals only. I talked to no other individuals who signed the petitions in question. These two individuals agreed to sign my "Opportunity to Ballot" petitions I was circulating, but upon further discussion with them, could not due to previously signing the petitions in question. Both individuals stated to me "who" was circulating the petitions they signed, i.e. Mr. Shipley, alone. The Election Law does not clearly state "who investigates" such petition concerns I raised. But the law is the law, and morally and ethically I felt this concern needed to be reviewed further. I spoke with the Seneca County District Attorney, who advised me to file a complaint with the New York State Police, which I have done. I presented the facts in my objection as I saw or was told them, leaving the investigation to a highly respected and reputable police agency. At no time in the objections, did I make any disrespectful comments about any of the candidates.

As for the BOE ruling on my specific objections, I respect and understand their decision. My next option would be to proceed to Supreme Court. However, the Election Law has an extremely tight schedule with deadlines, and given the legal costs that may be involved, I prefer to use those monies to fund my campaign (and a vacation for me and my son).

Mr. Shipley commented he was dismayed with myself not contacting him prior to filing of the objections. The BOE advised Mr. Shipley the concern "a person" expressed with how the petitions were circulated. Mr. Shipley received a copy via certified mail of my specific objections. I am not sure what else Mr. Shipley expected of me. He could have contacted me with his concerns. A personal confrontation would have served what purpose?

Finally, the accusation by Mr. Shipley, I "harassed some of the signers on the petition" is ludicrous, and a clear deflection of the true concern at hand. I simply don't operate this way. And like I stated earlier, I spoke with only two persons that signed his petition; is their willingness to sign my petition a form of harassment? I will ensure Mr. Shipley's concerns of "harassment" are communicated to the State Police Investigator. The investigator, as he interviews each of the petition signers, can determine if there was harassment on my part. I am confident the determination will be a clear and decisive "no."

In conclusion, it really comes down to it, at the end of the investigation and process, there are 30 people who truly know how these petitions were circulated: Mr. Shipley, his son Jeffrey, and the 28 voters who signed the petitions in question. And to the constituents in the Town of Waterloo, talk to people who know me personally.....they will gladly tell you the true person I am.



Lisa Hochadel